

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

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R 151549Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

SECSTATE WASHDC 5170

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET DISSIDENT AT SU CONVENTION

1) RECENTLY EMIGRATED SOVIET DISSIDENT WRITER VLADIMIR MAKSIMOV WAS STAR ATTRACTION AT JULY 11/12 CSU CONVENTION IN MUNICH (WHICH BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY). MAKSIMOV AND HIS WIFE APPEARED AMONG HONORARY GUESTS AT FIRST DAY'S SESSION AND HE WAS INTRODUCED TO ASSEMBLY BY FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS. HE ATTENDED CSU PARTY IN HOFBRAUEHAUS THAT EVENING AND RESPONDED TO CALL FROM CROWD TO SAY A FEW WORDS. AT FOLLOWING DAY'S PLENARY SESSION STRAUSS BROKE INTO PROGRAM TO ANNOUNCE CHANGE IN AGENDA, AND MAKSIMOV MADE SHORT SPEECH TO CONVENTION FROM THE PODIUM.

2) MAKSIMOV TOLD DELEGATES THAT THERE AMONG THEM HE HAD FEELING DEMOCRACY CAN AND MUST WIN. FREEDOM, HE SAID, IS PRECIOUS GIFT THAT MUST BE FOUGHT FOR, AND IF DEMOCRATS FROM ALL OVER, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN GERMANY, UNITE IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATS IN SOVIET UNION, THERE CAN BE A NEW RUSSIA. HE WAS LOUDLY ACCLAIMED BY CONVENTION.

3) MAKSIMOV TOLD CONSULATE OFFICER INVITATION TO ATTEND CONVENTION HAD COME QUITE SUDDENLY. STRAUSS APPARENTLY INVITED

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HIM TO SPEAK AFTER SEEING ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION HE WAS GIVEN

WHEN HE WAS INTRODUCED. STRAUSS AND OTHER CSU SPEAKERS EXPOLITED MAKSIMOV'S PRESENCE FOR ALL IT WAS WORTH TO BUTTRESS THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST OSTPOLITIK. THEY PROBABLY CONSIDER THAT ANY SOVIET RESPONSE CAN ALSO BE EXPLOITED (THE SOVIETS PRESUMABLY NOT BEING PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN MAKSIMOV'S SPEECH TO CSU AND SPEECHES BY ANGELA DAVIS AND ASSORTED PEOPLE'S LIBERATION LEADERS TO CPSU GATHERINGS). FOR HIS PART, MAKSIMOV WAS PROBABLY ATTRACTED TO CSU FORUM BECAUSE OF PARTY'S STRONG CHRISTIAN AND ANTI-SOCIALIST CREDENTIALS.

4) FOLLOWING MAKSIMOV'S SPEECH WE CALLED RADIO LIBERTY TO SUGGEST THEY NOT REPORT IT, ON TWIN GROUNDS THAT MAKSIMOV'S ASSOCIATION WITH STRAUSS IS APT TO BE MORE HELPFUL TO SOVIET REGIME THAN TO DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN USSR, AND THAT SINCE CSU WAS EXPLOITING MAKSIMOV AS WEAPON TO ATTACK BONN GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL FOR RADIO LIBERTY TO GET ITSELF ENMESHED IN GERMAN INTERNAL POLICITCS. RL POLICY OFFICER INFORMED US JULY 15 THAT STATION HAS IN FACT IGNORED THE STORY. SPIVACK

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